

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method for creating a privacy policy,
2 comprising:
3 creating a policy group;
4 moving a data element to the policy group; and
5 generating a privacy policy based on the policy
6 group.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the data element
2 is a predefined data element.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the data element
2 comprises at least one sub-element.

1 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 updating a policy-wide property; and
3 generating the privacy policy based on the
4 policy-wide property.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of
2 generating a privacy policy comprises generating a human-
3 readable version of the policy.

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the human-
2 readable version of the policy comprises a hypertext
3 markup language version of the policy.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of
2 generating a privacy policy comprises generating an
3 extensible markup language version of the policy.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of
2 generating a privacy policy comprises generating a
3 compact policy.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of
2 generating a privacy policy comprises generating a policy
3 statement corresponding to the policy group.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of
2 generating a privacy policy further comprises generating
3 a table of policy elements, wherein a policy element in
4 the table of policy elements corresponds to the policy
5 statement.

1 11. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 identifying an error in the privacy policy; and
3 generating an error statement describing the
4 error.

1 12. An apparatus for creating a privacy policy,
2 comprising:
3 creation means for creating a policy group;
4 movement means for moving a data element to the
5 policy group; and
6 generation means for generating a privacy
7 policy based on the policy group.

8 13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the data
9 element is a predefined data element.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the data
2 element comprises at least one sub-element.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising:
2 means for updating a policy-wide property; and
3 means for generating the privacy policy based
4 on the policy-wide property.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the
2 generation means comprises means for generating a human-
3 readable version of the policy.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the human-
2 readable version of the policy comprises a hypertext
3 markup language version of the policy.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the
2 generation means comprises means for generating an
3 extensible markup language version of the policy.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the
2 generation means comprises means for generating a compact
3 policy.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the
2 generation means comprises means for generating a policy
3 statement corresponding to the policy group.

1 21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the
2 generation means further comprises means for generating a
3 table of policy elements, wherein a policy element in the
4 table of policy elements corresponds to the policy
5 statement.

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1 22. The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising:
2 means for identifying an error in the privacy
3 policy; and
4 means for generating an error statement
5 describing the error.

1 23. An interface for creating a privacy policy,
2 comprising:
3 a first portion for displaying predefined data
4 elements;
5 a second portion for displaying groups of data
6 elements, wherein a group of data elements shares at
7 least one common property; and
8 a third portion for displaying a privacy policy
9 generated from the groups of data elements.

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1 24. A computer program product, in a computer
2 readable medium, for creating a privacy policy,
3 comprising:
4 instructions for creating a policy group;
5 instructions for moving a data element to the
6 policy group; and
7 instructions for generating a privacy policy
8 based on the policy group.